



May 19, 2006

(Online at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/enewsletter.htm>)



Making Universal Health Insurance a Reality for California's Children

More than 800,000 Californians eighteen or under do not have health insurance. This is not acceptable in the wealthiest state of the wealthiest nation in the world. The State Assembly is moving ahead with a universal coverage plan to be implemented over the next three years. We still need the support of the State Senate and governor, but we in the Assembly have voted to guide the debate by laying out a goal and how to get there as quickly as possible.

Tired of waiting for action at the state and federal levels, eighteen California counties have established "children's health initiatives" to cover all kids.

These local programs are supported by a mix of foundation money, redirected public money, private contributions and grants from First Five programs. However, this mix cannot sustain coverage over time, and 24,000 California kids are on waiting lists in the counties where these programs exist.

In the past, the governor has pledged his support for insuring all kids for health care. In this year's budget, he proposed increasing outreach to Californians eligible for Healthy Families (a state program providing low-cost insurance for kids), as many children are eligible, but don't sign up. The governor's approach has been to move toward universal coverage through better outreach to existing services. This still leaves hundreds of thousands of children without health coverage.

[Click here](#) to read the full op-ed.

[Click here](#) to read the Santa Cruz Sentinel story.

Governor's May Revise Budget

For the Assembly Budget Committee Highlights of the Governor's Proposed May Revise, [click here](#).

For the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Overview of the 2006-07 May Revision, [click here](#).

Laird Budget and Legislative Update:

Community College Fees Rollback

[Click here for press release.](#)

[Click here for Santa Cruz Sentinel story.](#)

AB 2650, Monterey Airport Efficiency & Modernization Act

[Press release.](#)

[Salinas Californian story.](#)

AB 3029, Food Stamp Simplification Act

[Press release.](#)

[Santa Cruz Sentinel story.](#)

AB 2348, Pajaro River Levees

[Press release.](#)

[Register-Pajaronian story.](#)

John in the District

5/20 CTA/NEA Legislative Breakfast, San Jose

5/27 CTA Annual Legislative Breakfast, Monterey

6/17 Panetta Institute/CSUMB Leadership Seminar, Seaside

Op-Eds by John

Recent op-eds have covered water conservation, reforming the state budget process, and

For more on the state budget, [click here](#).



John in his Capitol office with Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Baird Pittman, President/CEO Brenda Roncarati and Boardmember Rene Boskoff.

Assembly Approves Laird Legislation to Save Billions of Gallons of Water Annually

SACRAMENTO, May 15, 2006 – The California State Assembly today passed legislation that would squarely position California as a water conservation leader by requiring all new construction to use more efficient toilets starting in 2008. The legislation, AB 2496, authored by Assemblymember John Laird (D – Santa Cruz), would set new water flush volume standards by making use of existing high-efficiency toilet technology. All new homes, schools, office buildings and other construction would be required to utilize high-efficiency toilets.

“As California continues to grow, we need stronger water conservation measures in place,” said Assemblymember Laird. “Upgrading flush volume standards and making use of existing toilet technologies will save billions of gallons of water and make California a national leader in water conservation. High-quality, high-efficiency models are already on the market, this legislation will help make them the standard.”

[Click here](#) for the complete press release.

If you're receiving this as a forwarded email and would like to receive regular Laird updates, please send an email with "Subscribe" in the subject line to Assemblymember.Laird-newsletter@assembly.ca.gov. If you would prefer to not receive email updates, please respond with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

the Year of the California Museum. [Click here](#).

Recent Accolades

West Valley-Mission Community College District – Community Recognition Award

Good Times Newsweekly – 2006 Best Politician and Best Mover & Shaker

The Children's Advocacy Institute – 2005 Legislator of the Year Award

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